



# Kit Bond

## Sixth Generation Missourian

<http://bond.senate.gov>

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## RIVER NEWS

### **Bond Assumes New Leadership Position**

In March Senator Kit Bond announced his appointment to the U.S. Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps' responsibilities include a number of essential functions, including operating the nation's lakes, providing flood protection, clean hydropower energy and efficient water transportation options.

"The ports and rivers are our artery to national and international markets," said Bond, who believes the Corps priorities are not adequately funded. "I intend to use this subcommittee assignment to ensure that we properly balance the competing demands on our waterways."

Bond, chairman of the Senate VA/ HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, had the opportunity to add the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to his already long list – five Senate Committees and 11 Subcommittees – of Senate Committee assignments.

The Energy and Water Subcommittee funds a number of federal agency operations, including the civil activities at the Department of Defense (such as Corps of Engineers programs), Department of the Interior, Department of Energy and a number of Independent Agencies.

Earlier this year Bond announced his chairmanship of the Environment and Public Works Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, which authorizes the Corps of Engineers' activities. This subcommittee appointment places Bond at both ends of the Corps of Engineers oversight process – authorizing and appropriating. As a strong advocate for a healthy and balanced management of our nation's waterways, Bond looks

forward to the challenges offered by this new task in protecting Missouri's interests.

### **Missouri Facts - Not Fiction**

In response to a recent editorial about Missouri River management Bond wrote that the dangers of limiting those with whom a writer consults is sometimes misleading.

Bond also noted, the National Academy of Science stated with respect to the science that, "The most significant unknowns in the Missouri River are how the ecosystem will respond to management actions designed to improve ecological conditions." In other words, they don't know what will work or not work which is why the report contains the word "experiment" over 40 times in its text.

Secondly, Bond pointed out that the provision he proposed – a temporary provision to help cope with severe drought – was recommended in writing, first, not by him, but by all eight states in the Missouri River basin and the tribes as well as the Corps of Engineers who have science (based on experience!) that moving nests out of harms way is more successful than the alternative. Furthermore, it would conserve water during drought.

The amendment that Bond proposed has absolutely nothing to do with the debate over the "spring rise." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says no spring rise is necessary this year because the lakes are low -- so much for the science on the spring rise. Apparently, the value of the spring rise is more important than the risk of downstream flooding, but can be overlooked if lower lakes make transit to the upstream marinas more difficult.

Finally, Bond wrote he was personally criticized for wanting to "impose from on

high" the first flow regime that all eight states and tribes have all agreed upon in 14 years. To do so, Bond stated, he would have to win the support of Congress which is a democratic process undertaken by officials elected by the people. Contrast that, if you will, with the approach taken by unelected bureaucrats at the Fish and Wildlife Service, most of whom do not even live in the basin and who are no less political or agenda-driven than any other person gifted with human nature. Large sections of the Mississippi River with low water have been hindered because of drought, driving up costs for shippers in our fragile economy by as much as two-thirds. That may be "of minimal importance" to the FWS and uninformed editorial boards, but then what they "produce" can be exported electronically -- a benefit that most people who work for a living don't have.

### **Agreement Reached on 2003 Missouri River Plan**

The Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that they have come to agreement on a water management plan for the Missouri River reservoirs for the late spring and summer of 2003.

The plan complies with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act while reinforcing the reliability of the system of reservoirs to meet the multiple congressionally authorized project purposes.

The Service and the Corps agreed to a plan that, when compared to the 30,000 cubic feet per second "steady flow" presented in the 2003 annual operating plan, meets downstream needs while minimizing loss of habitat and impacts to listed species and drawdown of the three biggest reservoirs. The agreement is a combination of "steady flow" features

from the final AOP and elements of a “flow-to-target” plan.

Senator Bond called the agreement “a reasonable compromise” that “appears to be sound.”

## **ENERGY AND WATER**

### **Missouri Appropriated**

#### **\$76.5 Million**

“Missouri has nearly 1,000 miles of Mississippi and Missouri River on and within its borders,” said Bond. “The needs associated with flood protection, water transportation, and environmental protection are great. This money will help speed and complete these important projects.”

While there are a number of additional Missouri flood control, navigation, recreation and environmental improvement projects that received funding at the President’s budget request, following are a list of key priorities that received money above the President’s request provided by the Committee on Appropriations at Senator Bond’s request:

#### **Blue River Channel - Kansas City**

When construction is completed the project will protect industries that employ a number of Missourians. \$10 million.

#### **Riverside, Missouri - L-38**

Flood Control project that will impact 10,000 employees. \$6.3 million.

#### **Missouri River Shallow Water Habitat**



*At the Lock and Dam 21 North of Hannibal.*

Resources will be used to improve shallow water habitat. \$6.1 million.

#### **Kansas & Missouri Rivers - Kansas City**

Study to improve existing levee system. \$600,000

#### **Turkey Creek Basin - Kansas City**

Continue flood damage reduction study. \$600,000

#### **Swope Park Industrial Area - Kansas City**

Initiate pre-construction engineering and design of flood damage reduction effort. \$200,000

#### **Rosecrans Memorial Airport and Air National Guard Base - Elwood and Wathena.**

Feasibility Study on how to improve flood protection. \$331,000.

#### **Valley Park Levee**

For levees to help prevent flooding that occurs for the Meramec River upriver from the Mississippi River. \$3 million.

#### **Upper Mississippi Environmental Management Program**

Project to improve the habitat for fish and wildlife on the upper reach of the Mississippi River. \$12.2 million



## **Keep In Touch**

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